

Message Text

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APPROVED BY:S/S-O:MTANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO DOD IMMEDIATE

INFO CHIEF OF STAFF AIR FORCE IMMEDIATE

CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS IMMEDIATE

COMMANDER MAC IMMEDIATE

COMMANDER MSC IMMEDIATE

COMMANDER IN CHIEF REDCOM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 066738

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT SAIGON 3393 SENT ACTION SECSTATE COMUSSAG/7AF NKP

THAILAND INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU MARCH 25, 1975

QUOTE

S E C R E T SAIGON 3393

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR VS

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF DANANG

1. THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM'S MR-1 IS DETERIORATING VERY RAPIDLY. WE EXPECT MR-1 SHORTLY TO BE REDUCED TO AN ENCLAVE CENTERED ON DANANG. THE SITUATION IS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY THE PRESENCE OF ABOUT ONE-HALF MILLION REFUGEES IN THE DANANG AREA.

2. THE VIABILITY OF THIS ENCLAVE IS DOUBTFUL. WE CAN EXPECT

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DANANG AND QUITE POSSIBLY THE AIRFIELD TO BE SUBJECTED TO ABFS

SOON. THE PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES HAS THE POTENTIAL OF SEVERE DISORDER UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. FOR SOME DAYS NOW CONGEN DANANG HAS BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF GRADUALLY TRYING TO THIN DOWN THE POPULATION OF US CITIZENS AND OTHERS FOR WHOM WE HAVE SOME E&E RESPONSIBILITY USING OUR OWN IN-COUNTRY ASSETS FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE WILL ACCELERATE THIS PROCESS TODAY BUT IT MUST BE DONE CAREFULLY AND IN A NON-PROVOCATIVE MANNER. THERE IS NOW SERIOUS DOUBT THAT WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO REMOVE ALL OR MOST EVACUEES IN THIS FASHION.

4. FOLLOWING ARE CURRENT NUMBERS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF PERSONNEL COVERED BY E&E PLAN:

OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND DEPENDENTS	91
NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN	157
THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS	66
VISITING AMERICANS	30
OFFICIAL ALIENS	82
NON-OFFICIAL ALIENS	71
TOTAL	497

IN ADDITION VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES OF ALL ELEMENTS OF CONGEN NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 850. THIS FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE DEPENDENTS. CONGEN ESTIMATES 6 TO 8 DEPENDENTS PER EMPLOYEE. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE OUT OF COUNTRY EVACUATION FOR LOCAL NATIONAL EMPLOYEES.

5. IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOIN THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE REQUESTED IMMEDIATELY:

(A) ALERT APPROPRIATE MILITARY ASSETS TO BE READY TO PROVIDE OFF-SHORE HELICOPTERS AND SURFACE EVACUATION CAPABILITY. (IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT FIXED-WING AIR EVACUATION USING DANANG OR MARBLE MOUNTAIN AIRFIELD WILL BE POSSIBLE AT THE TIME THIS PLAN NEED TO BE IMPLEMENTED.)

(B) ADVISE IMMEDIATELY REACTION TIME OF THIS FORCE TO POSITION OFFSHORE DANANG. LEHMANN

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UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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